

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON HB 923

BILL TITLE: prohibiting dog racing in New Hampshire and establishing a committee to make recommendations for mitigating the impacts of prohibiting dog racing.

DATE: See ATTACHED

Subcommittee Members: Reps.

Comments and Recommendations:

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
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Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

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Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

Respectfully submitted,

Rep.
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

attending - Smidt, Irwin, Beck, Manney, F. Sullivan, Judy, Velez, Headd, Day, Hawkins

open 11:00 AM

closed: 1:40 PM

Dog Racing

3/16/2007 - HB923

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#1

Rep. Wendelboe: Amendment # 2007-0735h - not part of GREYK - (Supports bill)

Amendment is independent and will:

1. will ^{allow} simulcasting w/o live dog racing
2. only for dog racing tracks in operation today. to avoid gambling ^{upper of} these

#2

Paul Laflamme: GREYK USA - director - Supports

- ✓ (sponsored HB ~~923~~ 520) ✓ 700 Injuries - 22% fatal or career ending w/4/5 week ^{recovering} time
- ✓ Cited report "Commercial Dog Racing"
- ✓ page 4 - 20-24 - makes clear that this bill does not include other animals
- ✓ we have a duty to protect dogs from harm.

question:

Velez: Has GREYK USA received money from ^{out of state casinos} facing competitors?
Paul: no, we have not as far as I've been on the board.
: we do receive donations from private individuals

#3

Robert White NH Pari Mutual Commission - Opposes -

- : Judge
- : dogs taken care of very well, not kept in ^{crates} cages 23hrs.
 - ✓ they are exercised, ✓ fed well, treated like athletes
- : on Board "Alert System" where I am informed 24hrs for Dog illnesses. ✓ Hinsdale has never lost a dog from illness.
- : love dogs - not w/ Race track - state employee.
- : injury reports include, by law, all small scratches etc.

#4

Ronald Willis - Supports - witnessed abused at tracks ^{when} ~~when~~ working there.
- tick/flea infested. (Ran kennel for 8 months in 2004)
- discussion relates to ONE KENNEL OWNER who owned 2 Kennels. (written testimony provided)

#5

Roy Goree - opposes - owner Greyhound Pets of America -
600 Greyhounds in States - would be displaced if bill passes

please consider impact of that ~~show~~ especially if greyhounds are farmed out to other tracks.
(written testimony provided)

#6 Stephen Shepard - supports - lack of ^(cash flow) revenue leads to lack of care.
i.e. ticks/fleas. (owns 6 dogs)

#7 Ben Thomas - Russell Mountain Racing - oppose -
- Racing since 17 years old
- meat supplier to Belmont + other race tracks.
- bad apples in every sport, good for most part.
- greyhounds receive great level of care.
- risks associated w/ everything sport.
- greyhounds bred for racing - live for it.
- 3D (Dead, Disabled, diseased. cows) meat.

#8 Linda Dionne - supports - Representing Nat'l Animal Rights League
- discussed abuse of dogs & destruction of healthy dogs to ^{save} money
(written testimony provided)

#9 Fred Fulcino - opposes - Nat'l Greyhound Association -
- disputes seriousness of injuries + abuse
- at 94% adoption rate
- GREY 2K2 aligned w/ PETA (check financials)
(written testimony provided)

#10 Lindsay Westover - supports - representing self - adopted Greyhounds
- winning dogs arrive in better shape than low performers.

#11 Rick Newman: opposes - Lobbyist for "The Lodge at Belmont"
- Please look at from an investment/business standpoint
- Lodge has invested millions of dollars
- current RSA states greyhound racing until 2029
- Consider employees 86 year Round + 50 add'l ^{for racing}
- cages are large enough for dogs to move around
- employees must be licensed for all job (dishwasher too)
and must have background check.

#12 Peter Marsh - Supports - handout provided "NH Pari-Mutuel Commission Calendar Year Statistic as of 12/31/06"

Hand-out

- Representing "Solutions to Overpopulation of Pets."
- discussed cost of maintaining Greyhound racing to state.
 - \$ 1.3 cost per year
- is this good fiscal responsibility?
- Should NH be spending ~~this~~ tax payer funds to subsidize gambling in NH?
- closing 3 tracks would push bettors to Remaining three tracks. Rockingham PK

#13

George Roberts - opposed to the bill.

The issue is one of perception. Other gambling interests (out of state) are favoring the bill.

Seabrook employs over 220 people.

- video gambling would help the tracks if the legislature would allow.
- over \$15 in taxes paid to state of NH.
- ancillary financial benefit to NH is \$80 million to surrounding businesses

#14 Michael Trombley - supports - member Grey2K USA

Written testimony

- formerly Deputy Commissioner of Pari-Mutuel Commission
- owner of dog usually never sees the dog - takes over kennel (91%)
- most bets are "simulcast", not made at track.
- discussed killing injured dog because too expensive to keep.
- matter of compassion, not "animal rights"
- 3'x3'x3' - size of cage
- disputes bill opening up to other restrictions.

#15 Curtis Barry - Lobbyist - Hinsdale Greyhound Park -

Hand-out provided.

- opposes -
- Hand out illustrates impact of Bill.
- if bill passes, NH will be 1st state to ban while racing was still active.
- Bill passed last year to restrict lottery \$ from being used for greyhound advertising
- SB 205 - Racing Lab fee addressed
- most injuries not attributable to racing

#16 Dale Childs - oppose - 24 yrs w/ Pari Mutuel Commission

- Hinsdale races older dogs - disputes "career ending" injury
- Hinsdale pays for "Front line" flea control
- GREYAK USA Booklet - displays selective pictures - doesn't show good/happy pictures
- 3D Meat is same as in Alpo dog food.
- No Vet in State would put a dog down for \$.
- dogs like crates - because it makes them feel secure
- \$100K cost is not solely attributable to racing, Bingo/games of chance cost are included.

#17 April Harney - supports - adopting greyhounds for 10 years.

- ~~spoke~~ Spoke of medical issue of adopted dogs

#18 Joe Sullivan - own/operate Hinsdale Greyhound Park

- opposes -
- 100 Hinsdale employees
- average life span: 10-12 years.

#19 Richard Fraser - opposed - Represent Yankee Greyhound

- Spends \$10K+ a year for vitamins/care of dogs
- loves dogs - great pets
- no Kill Racetrack unless absolutely necessary.

- #20 David S. Calef - Hinsdale Greyhound Track - 20 years @ Hinsdale
retired 1 year ago, but here to address issue
- founded Greyhound Pets of America
 - Greyhound adoption was started from w/in the industry.
 - 1993 - ^{since} no greyhound has been put to sleep due to lack of adoption.
 - 236/1100 injuries in Greyak Book were from Hinsdale, lots were minimal
 - Do not release maimed/hurt dogs to adopting public.
 - ASPCA - regulates crate size
 - disputes 3'x3' crate size - Hinsdale's are larger.
 - industry has changed since '80's when all dogs were eulinized.

- #21 Elin Phinizy - Self - opposed - concerned w/ language in bill where it "makes it a crime" to speed & agility.
- please make bill specific to greyhound racing
 - some injuries are naturally occurring to dogs not based on racing.

- #22 Dan J. Callaghan - Lobbyist - Yankee Greyhound Racing
- Petition submitted
- opposed -
 - 85% of employees must, by law, be from NH.
 - NH Values - limit State from taking private property.
 - taking away business to placate small interest groups.
 - we have "deal" w/ State of NH.